

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATIONAL UNITED FRONT OF KAMPUCHEA

MESSAGE AND SOLEMN DECLARATION

OF

**SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK
HEAD OF STATE OF CAMBODIA**

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MESSAGE AND SOLEMN DECLARATION BY
SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK,
HEAD OF STATE OF CAMBODIA

I pay my highest respects to Her Majesty the Queen, and extend my respectful regards to the Buddhist clergy and my dear compatriots.

I convey to you my most sincere, constant and affectionate feelings.

The handful of reactionary bourgeois elements and princes, who were able to climb to the highest positions thanks to the Sangkum Reastr Niyum and its President and consequently seize all kinds of privileges, have not only expressed their "gratitude" by "deposing" me illegally but moreover have slung mud at me, vilified me with monstrous slanders and base accusations including the accusation of my betrayal of the motherland "to serve foreign interests".

But my grief at these slanders and accusations is not so acute as my grief at the present very unfortunate fate of our country which is being wantonly ravaged by the group of traitors and renegades who have unbridledly imposed on the nation a dictatorship (after having violated and thrown overboard the Constitution of the Kingdom) and is leading

our country straight to anarchism and war provoked by U.S. imperialism. Our country of Khmer had been known in the world as an oasis of peace and stability (for many years up to the eve of the crisis created by men of the March 1970 coup d'etat).

At present the liberty, democracy, relative prosperity, national unity and union which our people enjoyed not long ago have been destroyed, reduced to nothing.

Our soldiers have been ordered to give up defending the frontiers and the country's territory to set themselves against their own compatriots and ruthlessly repress all those who dare to show even the slightest verbal opposition to the new fascist power which serves U.S. imperialism.

This is not an accusation made by me but an obvious fact seen by all clear-sighted observers in the world.

The Lon Nol-Sisowath Sirik Matak-Cheng Heng clique declared that I was a "traitor" and that I had "sold out" my country to foreign countries, because I wanted to make our nation avoid, on the one hand, losing its good reputation of wisdom and maturity and, on the other, running into great danger in the future by provoking recklessly and with undue hostility socialist Viet Nam which the U.S.A. the richest and biggest military power of the world, failed to bring to its knees.

My devotion and loyalty to the nation have become a crime of high treason owing to the "good will" of my enemies.

However, their "condemnation" does not disturb me much since they themselves are genuine renegades who have insatiable greed for power, wealth and fame, and are mere cowards who only dare to attack Sihanouk in his absence and stab him in the back.

Therefore this despicable clique will not be able to affect me or make me fall back from my unshakable determination to defend the supreme and long-term interests of my motherland and her liberty.

The millions of Khmers at home and the thousands of Khmers abroad will certainly very soon uphold the banner of revolt against the reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Cheng Heng clique and its masters — the U.S. imperialists. The patriotic Khmers will overthrow these traitors and drive their accomplices and their U.S. masters out of our country. After victory, our patriots will build up a new Kampuchea whose power will remain for ever in the hands of the progressive, industrious and pure working people, who will ensure that our motherland will have a bright future with social justice, equality and fraternity among all Khmers.

The treason, cowardice, slanders and the despicable attacks by the reactionaries have opened my eyes and made me painfully aware of my unpardonable naivety and my misjudgement which made me believe that a free, democratic, peaceful, prosperous and happy country could be built with the help of such notorious personages, the corrupt bourgeois elements and princes, fascists, reactionaries as those making up the present "government" and "parliament" of Phnom Penh.

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The "heavy blow" they dealt me and are still dealing me serves as a painful but very useful lesson to me, a lesson I will never forget all my life.

In view of this misjudgement, I should resign the function as Head of State after our people's certain victory over their enemies, reactionary oppressors and their masters — the U.S. imperialists. And on that very occasion I will give our progressive youth and working people the possibility of fully assuming the responsibility of national construction and defence with the co-operation of the entire nation.

* * * *

In the present circumstances my task has not yet been fulfilled, because I will never allow the treacherous reactionaries, with the backing of the power of U.S. dollars and at bayonet point, to go on wantonly trampling underfoot the ideals, laws and basic principles of the state with impunity.

And it is in this spirit that I solemnly declare as follows:

1) In my capacity as legal Head of State of Cambodia, a supreme position given me by the Khmer people unanimously, I irrevocably dissolve the Lon Nol government and the two chambers of parliament who have betrayed their constitutional oaths and the Constitution of the Kingdom.

2) I call on all my compatriots and all the foreigners residing in Cambodia not to recognize and carry out *décre* (*prakas, kret*), laws (*kram*), orders, messages, circulars, judgements, all kinds of decisions, and verdicts — "works"

which the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Cheng Heng clique and their accomplices or servants have produced or are going to produce.

3) A new National Union Government will be established. A Provisional Consultative Assembly will also be established (for assisting the government), whose members will be qualified representatives from all circles of the Khmer society (monks, peasants and farmers, workers and other labourers, merchants, industrialists, armymen, policemen, provincial guard, youth and intellectuals, functionaries, women, etc. . . .).

4) A National Liberation Army will be formed.

5) All Khmer people at home and abroad (the clergy and laymen, armymen and civilians, men and women) — who cherish the ideals of independence, democracy, neutrality, progress, socialism, Buddhism and nationalism, and stand for territorial integrity of the country within her existing frontiers, anti-imperialism and anti-neo-colonialism — will unite to form a united front under the official name "the National United Front of Kampuchea" (Abbreviation: "N.U.F.K.").

The essential tasks of the N.U.F.K. consist in:

One. Liberate our motherland from the dictatorship and oppression by the reactionary and pro-imperialist Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Cheng Heng clique.

Two. Struggle against the U.S. imperialists who have invaded our Indo-China and are oppressing its peoples and

breeding injustice, war and all kinds of calamities, hostility and disunity, troubles, crises and misery among our three peoples — the Khmers, Vietnamese and Laotians; and this struggle will be waged side by side with the socialist, progressive, anti-imperialist countries or peoples, far and near, with their complete support.

Three. ~~Rebuild our country and make her advance as rapidly as possible along the road of progress following our victory over our enemies. This task of reconstruction is to be accomplished by all of us, the Khmers, in comradeship, solidarity and perfect unity as in times of hard fight.~~

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I am longing very much for my beloved motherland which is and will always remain the sole purpose of my life.

I also miss very much my poor mother, our Buddhist clergy and our beloved people.

If I am not to die in the struggle our patriotic and progressive people and ourselves are going to wage together, I will surely salute and embrace them when we win inevitable victory over the imperialists and their lackeys.

In the course of this struggle, I call on all those of my children (compatriots), military and civilian, who can no longer endure the unjust oppression by the traitors and who have the courage and patriotic spirit needed for liberating the motherland, to engage in guerrilla warfare in the jungle against our enemies.

If you are armed and have already mastered military skills, I will provide you at opportune moments with munitions and new arms. If you do not yet have arms but wish to acquire military skills, I will take necessary measures to send you to the military school of the National United Front of our Kampuchea, which is being established way out from your barracks and villages and this is for the purpose that the enemy will not be able to reach or locate it.

Those of my children (compatriots) who live in and around Europe and wish to serve the motherland and the people by joining the Liberation Army or the National United Front of Kampuchea, please come to call on me in Moscow or Peking.

Long live Cambodia!

N. Sihanouk

March 23, 1970

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